

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 /143 W
-----052380 092351Z /21

R 091720Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5954
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LONDON 07306

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, UK, CY, PEPR
SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY FONSEC OWEN

REF: STATE 116959

1. FOR THE RECORD, QUOTED BELOW IS FULL EXCHANGE
ON CYPRUS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS APRIL 26, WHICH CAME IN
MIDST OF DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST. REGRETTABLY,
HANSARD WAS RECEIVED ONLY TODAY.

2. BEGIN QUESTION. MRS. JEGER: WILL MY RIGHT HON.
FRIEND SAY A LITTLE MORE ABOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH
EEC COLLEAGUES CONCERNING CYPRUS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF
THE FACT THAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY ARE ANXIOUS TO
COME CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY? SURELY THIS IS A MAJOR
MATTER THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AMONG EEC MEMBERS.
END QUESTION

3. BEGIN DR. OWEN'S REPLY. IT IS DISCUSSED, AND I DO
NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THAT WE SHALL FEEL
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IT RIGHT TO TAKE SOME ACTION AT SOME STAGE. BUT AT THE
MOMENT THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY-IT IS A VERY DIFFICULT
ONE-RESTS ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS IN DECIDING WHETHER TO CALL ANOTHER MEETING
FOR INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS
PUT FORWARD BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

I DO NOT HIDE FROM THE HOUSE THE FACT THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AS YET WE ARE APPROACHING AN EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT, BUT I THINK THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD HESITATE VERY SERIOUSLY BEFORE REFUSING TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS THERE IS VERY LITTLE ADVANTAGE IN REFUSING TO DISCUSS AND TO COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. I RECOGNISE THAT THIS IS A DECISION FOR THEM-AND ONLY FOR THEM-TO MAKE, BUT I URGE NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN IF IT IS ENTERED INTO WITHOUT ANY GREAT SENSE OF OPTIMISM.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON07306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780197-0129
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780579/aaaacpkd.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fc8c2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 116959
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2750411
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENT BY FONSEC OWEN
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, UK, CY, (ECEVIT, BULENT), (OWENS, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc8c2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014